

Hampden Conservation Commission
Site Conservation Plan

General Information

- Name: Town Forest
- Location:
 - General description: north of Cold Brook Rd, west of Hwy 202, east of I-95
 - Legal boundaries
 - Map(s)
- Size (acres):
- Owner(s): Bouchard, Town of Hampden
- Property Value:
- Public Access: Town land – yes, Bouchard land is not posted but it is gated behind soccer fields
- Who is responsible for management decisions?

Current Status for Conservation:

- Existing surveys/maps/documentation: mapped as a deer wintering area by IFW; surveys before L.L. Bean purchase
- Conservation values site currently provides: deer wintering area, vernal pools?
- Condition: recently logged, surrounded by heavy traffic roads, topsoil has been harvested from some areas, adjacent to Ammo park/undeveloped forest parcels (potential for expansion)
- History of use as applicable to conservation: deer hunting (archery & rifle), snowmobiling, skiing, hiking, target shooting, silviculture
- Existing protection(s): Significant wildlife habitat under NRPA (DWA)
- Constraints:
 - Accessibility: pipeline, transmission line; access from 2 main roads and subdivisions, industrial park – overall limited parking and access points are not convenient
 - Site potential: wet forest
 - Regulatory: NRPA
 - Archaeological sites: old farm? Cellar hole, foundation blocks (Bouchard property)?
 - Easements: 25-40 acre easement on L.L. Bean parcel surrendering development rights as wetland offset for mitigation for school facility. Funds from SAD22 will be used for trail development on the parcel.
 - Known hazards: hunting, snowmobiles, pits off Hwy 202 (lots of trash, used for target shooting?), dumped appliances & other trash

Proposed Management:

- Goal(s) of site relative to conservation in Hampden:
 - Multiple-use forest providing a place for residents to hike, ski, etc.
 - hunting
 - Maintain rural character.
 - Multiple trails with parking and access from Cold Brook Rd. extension. Nature trail for education (great to have it go by vernal pool).
 - Restore deer wintering habitat.
 - Picnic areas, gazebo, flower gardens along southern fringe.
- Strategy to achieve conservation goal(s):
 - Swap land with Bouchard or develop easements
 - Forest management plan to create sustainable harvesting compatible with other uses and enhancing deer wintering habitat
 - Use funds from SAD22 easement to construct trails and to remove trash
 - Work with commercial developers to provide parking and access into forest and picnic sites, gardens, gazebo etc. along southern edge.
 - Thick screen of trees along periphery to reduce traffic noise
 - Pursue agreements/cooperation with “partners” to bring in funds for developing trails, recreational areas, maintenance
 - Explore possibility of expanding into forests around ammo park
- Input to conservation plan:
 - Public – none yet
 - Landowner
 - Town officials – this concept for the area was discussed extensively as part of the revised Comprehensive Plan
- Potential partnerships and programs:
 - Tree City, USA
 - Project Canopy (Maine Forest Service)
 - Maine Audubon
 - Maine Birding Trail
 - Hampden garden club
 - Goodwill Riders snowmobile club
 - Bangor Gas
 - Bangor Hydro
 - Tom Thornton/Freightliner (ammo park)
 - Thibodeau
 - Hampden Recreation
 - Residents in subdivisions bordering forest
- Beneficiaries of goal(s):
 - Town residents (recreation)

- Businesses along Hwy 202 and Cold Brook Rd.
- Town of Hampden (financial gain from timber harvesting)
- Economic costs/benefits of proposed management:
 - Acquiring property through cash/land swaps
 - Trail maintenance
 - Parking area/picnic area maintenance
 - Invasive species?
 - Revenue from timber harvesting
 - Enhance “green” character of businesses along periphery
 - Attract birders, skiers